

DAHLIA PLANT NAMED 'BAHAMAS'

Genus and species of the plant claimed:

Dahlia hortorum

5 Variety denomination:

Bahamas

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present Invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Dahlia* plant, botanically known as *Dahlia hortorum*, and hereinafter referred to by the name
10 'Bahamas'. The new cultivar 'Bahamas' is a product of a planned breeding program and was selected by the Inventor, Jan Skjold Knudsen, in Fyn, Denmark.

Asexual reproduction by cuttings of the new variety in Fyn, Denmark has demonstrated that the combination of characteristics as described herein for
15 'Bahamas' are firmly fixed and are retained through successive generations of asexual reproduction. The new variety reproduces true to type.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

'Bahamas' has not been tested under all available environmental conditions and the phenotype may vary with variations in environmental conditions such as temperature, light intensity, day length and humidity, without a change in genotype of
20 the plant.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be the unique characteristics of 'Bahamas'. The following characteristics in combination distinguish 'Bahamas' as a new and distinct cultivar:

1. Red flower color, RHS 53A;

2. Compact plant habit; and
3. Vigorous growth habit.

Of the commercial cultivars known to the Inventor, the most similar in comparison to 'is a *Dahlia* variety named 'Borneo' (unpatented). Table 1 provides a
5 comparison between the new cultivar and 'Borneo'.

Table 1

Characteristic	'Bahamas'	'Borneo'
Flower color	Red, RHS 53A	Red-purple, RHS 70A
Leaf length	Up to 12 cm	7 – 8 cm

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying color photographs illustrate the overall appearance and
10 details of flower form color and structures of the new cultivar, showing the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in color reproductions of this type. Colors in the photographs may differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description, which more accurately describe the actual colors of the new *Dahlia*.

15 The first photograph is a side view of a typical flowering plant of 'Bahamas' as grown in an 11 cm pot. The second photograph is a top view of a typical flowering plant of 'Bahamas'. The third photograph is a close-up of the flower of 'Bahamas'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The following observations, measurements and values describe plants grown
20 under commercial conditions. Plants described were grown in a greenhouse in Fyn, Denmark with average day temperatures of 18 °C to 25 °C, and night temperature

of 16 C. All color references are measured against the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Colour Chart. Colors are approximate as color depends on horticultural practices such as light level and treatment rate, among others, without however any variance in genotype.

5 PLANT:

Form: Globular, upright

Height: 17 cm

Spread: 20 cm

Natural flowering season: Summer to fall

10 Crop time: After rooting, about 10 - 12 weeks are required to produce finished flowering plants in 11 cm pots

Plant vigor: Vigorous

Root structure: Fibrous

Stem: Dark yellow-green RHS 144, glabrous

15 Lateral branches: 10 in quantity; 7-10 mm diameter; 10 cm in length (including flower)

Internode length: 3 cm

Foliage:

Quantity: 4 – 5 pairs per lateral branch

20 Arrangement: Opposite, decussate

Length: Up to 12 cm

Width: 5 – 6 cm

Shape: Elliptical, acuminate tip, decurrent base, crenate margin

Texture: Glabrous

Color: Young leaf upper side green RHS 136A; young leaf under side
gray-green RHS 189C; mature leaf upper side RHS 134A;
mature leaf under side RHS 189C

Venation: Upper side RHS 135C; under side RHS 144A

5 Petiole: 2 cm length, 5 – 8 mm diameter, color RHS 144A

FLOWER:

Arrangement: Composite flowers in leaf axils

Inflorescence type: Capitulum

Inflorescence height: 2 – 3 cm

10 Inflorescence width: 6 cm

Flowering habit: Upright

Quantity of flowers: 2 per lateral stem

Flower longevity: 7 days on the plant

Bud:

15 Quantity: 3 per lateral stem

Shape: Globular

Size: Up to 2 cm in length, 1 cm diameter

Color: RHS 144C

Petal:

20 Shape: Disc, tubular to single, fused petal

Number: Disc, 5 fused; ray, 5 fused

Length: Disc 2 mm, ray 25 – 30 mm

Width: Disc 2 mm, ray 15 mm

Color: Mature upper side RHS 53A; mature under side RHS 61B

Sepals:

Quantity: 5 – 6

Length: 12 mm

5 Width: 6 mm

Color: Immature upper side RHS 138A; immature under side RHS
143D; mature upper side RHS 137C; mature under side RHS
191B

Calyx: 3 mm length, 14 mm diameter

10 Peduncle: 5 cm length, 3 mm diameter; strength: strong; color RHS 199A

Reproductive organs:

Anthers: 5 mm in length, RHS 23B

Pollen: RHS 14A

Pistils: 1 per flower, 15 mm length

15 Stigma: RHS 14A

Style: 1 cm length, RHS 1B

Ovary: RHS 150B

Temperature tolerance: High tolerance to 35 C; low tolerance to 0 C